

Amendments to the Claims

Applicants submit this Preliminary Amendment with the National Phase application enclosed herewith, under 35 USC § 371(g), and requests that the following amendments be entered. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please add new claims 7-13 and cancel existing claims 1-6.

Listing of Claims:

1-6 (cancelled)

7. (new) An agriculturally acceptable composition for acceleration of flowering in a plant comprising an effective amount of at least one lipo-chitooligosaccharide with at least one agriculturally acceptable carrier.

8. (new) A method for acceleration of flowering or fruiting or for increasing flower numbers or associated yield in at least one plant comprising:

- a) providing an effective amount of a lipo-chitooligosaccharide composition; and
- b) administering the composition to the at least one plant.

9. (new) The method of claim 8 wherein the providing the composition comprises combining an effective amount of at least one lipo-chitooligosaccharide with at least one agriculturally acceptable carrier.

10. (new) The method of claim 8 further comprising harvesting the at least one plant.

11. (new) The method of claim 10 wherein the harvesting results in an increased yield.
12. (new) The method of claim 9 further comprising harvesting the at least one plant.
13. (new) The method of claim 12 wherein the harvesting results in an increased yield.